

**REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.121, attached as Appendix A is a Version With Markings to Show Changes Made.

The objection of claims 47-52 as depending from a canceled claim is respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments.

The rejection of claims 47-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (1st para.) for lack of enablement is respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael L. Goldman  
Registration No. 30,727

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051  
Rochester, New York 14603-1051  
Telephone: (585) 263-1304  
Facsimile: (585) 263-1600

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3/4/02  
Date

Jo Ann Whalen

**Appendix A**  
**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**

In reference to the amendments made herein to claims 41 and 47, additions appear as underlined text, while deletions appear as bracketed text, as indicated below:

**In the Claims:**

Claims 41 and 47 have been amended as follows:

41. (Twice Amended) A method of screening a chemical agent for the ability of the chemical agent to modify sodium channel function, said method comprising:

introducing an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a voltage-sensitive sodium channel of *Musca domestica*, wherein said nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule[,] having a nucleotide sequence according to bases 1 to 1011 or 1321 to 5030 of SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 or [3] 2 at 42°C, with 5 x SSPC and 50[%] percent formamide with washing at 65°C with 0.5 x SSPC into a host cell;

expressing said voltage-sensitive sodium channel encoded by said nucleic acid molecule in the host cell so as to result in the functional expression of a voltage-sensitive sodium channel in the host cell;

exposing the host cell to a chemical agent; and

evaluating the exposed host cell to determine if the chemical agent modifies the function of the voltage-sensitive sodium channel.

47. (Amended) A method of screening a chemical agent for the ability of the chemical agent to modify sodium channel function, said method comprising:

introducing [the] a first nucleic acid molecule [of claim 1] encoding a voltage-sensitive sodium channel of Musca domestica and a second nucleic acid molecule encoding a tip E protein into a host cell, wherein said first nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence according to bases 1 to 1011 or 1321 to 5030 of SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 or 2 at 42°C, with 5 x SSPC and 50 percent formamide with washing at 65°C with 0.5 x SSPC;

allowing said host cell to coexpress said first nucleic acid molecule and said second nucleic acid molecule so as to result in the functional expression of a voltage-sensitive sodium channel in the host cell;

exposing the host cell to a chemical agent; and

evaluating the exposed host cell to determine if the chemical agent modifies the function of the voltage-sensitive sodium channel.